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Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on *Picrasma quassioides* (D. Don) Benn. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." Indian Medicinal Plants. (1918)].

- Posted by [Pankaj Oudhia](#) on May 8, 2014 at 7:28
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Pankaj Oudhia

Introduction

Based on Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 in different parts of India Pankaj Oudhia has documented vital information about Medicinal Plants mentioned in the famous publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Through this research document Pankaj Oudhia has tried to present original document with additional notes. For complete paper with pictures, Interactive Tables, Video and Audio clips please visit pankajoudhia.com

For original publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918) please visit <https://archive.org/details/indianmedicinalp01kirt>

248. — *Picrasma quassioides*, Benn. H. F. B. I.,

i. 520.

Syn. : — *Simaba quassioides*, Ham. *Nima quassioides*, Ham.

mss.

Vern. : — Bharangi or baringi (H.) ; Puthorin, bera, mathu,

bering, pesho, kashbar, birgo (Pb. Himalayan names, ; Shama

baringi (Nepal).

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Habitat: — Sub-tropical Himalaya, from Jammu to Nepal.

Garwhal and Bhutan.

A tall, scrambling tree, with stout, often spotted, branches.

Bark very bitter ; light brown, rather smooth, shining, thin.

Wood bright yellow, moderately hard ; sapwood white. Annual rings well-marked by a line of pores in the autumn wood. Pores moderately sized, unevenly scattered, except on the line of the annular rings. Medullary rays fine to moderately broad, short, distant, forming on a radial section a pretty silver-grain (Gamble).

Leaves pubescent, a foot or more long, of 9-15 leaflets, the lowest pair much smaller and stipuliform ; leaflets 6-4 pair, obovate, acuminate, serrate, opposite, nearly sessile. Flower polygamous, in pubescent panicles ; small greenish, generally pentamerous.

Calyx-segments small, imbricate. Petals ovate or obovate, persistent in female and hermaphrodite flowers. Much enlarged and coriaceous in fruit ; filaments strap-shaped, equalling the

petals, villous, about the size of a pea, in diam., black, each containing one erect seed.

Parts used : —The bark, root and leaves. **[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *All parts are used as medicine.*]**

Use : — Dr. Royle draws attention to the bark, wood and root of this plant as quite as bitter as the quassia of the West Indies, for which it would doubtless prove an excellent substitute. The Pharmacopoeia Indica regards this bark as worthy of further attention.

The leaves, according to Stewart, are applied to itch.

248a. — *P. javanica*, Bl. h. f. b. i., i. 520.

This large tree is common in the Ataran Forest Division, Tenasserim where it is called by the Karens "Napaw-ow." The bark is exceedingly bitter and is used by the Karens as a febrifuge instead of quinine. The bark contains a bitter principle allied to quassin, and has an advantage in containing no tannin. There is no alkaloidal principle such as quinine in the bark.

[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *Picrasma* parts are an integral part of hundreds of cancer formulations in India. I have documented information about over 200,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations in which *Picrasma* is added as primary, secondary, tertiary to nonary ingredient. It is use as cancer medicine throughout India. In places where it is not available in forest the Traditional Healers depend on Herb Traders and vendors. In different parts of India different cancer herbs are used with this medicinally important species. The Healers are well aware of its overdose, excess and toxicity. I have documented information about hundreds of Formulations used to nullify the harmful effects of *Picrasma* overdose, excess and toxicity. The Healers of Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand use it with Kalmegh and different types of Medicinal Orchids. It is also used in combination with Traditional Medicinal Rice and Millets. Please see Tables Picra-1 to Picra-350 for exhaustive and interesting information about this species.]

E-documents on *Picrasma*

<http://ecoport.org/ep?SearchType=articleList&Author=oudhia&...>

Citation

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